

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09720 182055Z

62

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NEAE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 /022 W

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O 182013Z JUL 75 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0045

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9720

USIAC

FOR HEIL/KAMENSKE IBS/PCX/NCA, IOP AND INA; STATE FOR NEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: INDIAN PRESS CENSORSHIP OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

1. OUTSIDE PHONE AND TELEX LINKS HAVE BEEN OUT FOR EIGHT HOURS AT THIS FILING. IT IS POSSIBLE NATURAL CAUSES ARE RESPONSIBLE, BUT THERE IS ALSO SPECULATION THAT GOI MAY HAVE CUT OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS IN ANTICIPATION OF NEWS STORIES BEING FILED ON MONDAY'S PARLIAMENT SESSION. FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS OF MAJOR SERVICES,

(INCLUDING AP, UPI, LA TIMES, NEWSWEEK)

US AND EUROPEAN, WERE CALLED INTO OFFICES OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION FRIDAY AND REQUESTED TO SIGN PLEDGE THEY WOULD ADHERE TO CENSORSHIP RULES. MOST TOLD/OFFICIALS THEY MUST CHECK WITH SUPERVISORS AT HOME BASE BEFORE ACCEDING. UPI CORRESPONDENT WAS CALLED ON AT HIS OFFICE BY POLICE WITH DEPORTATION ORDER MORNING JULY 18 AND IN FORCEFUL MANNER

ORDERED TO SIGN IT. HE DID SO, BUT LATER WENT TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL AND NEGOTIATED A DELAY BY SIGNING AN AGREEMENT TO CONFORM TO CENSORSHIP

RULES.

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2. CONSENSUS AMONG FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS HERE AT FRIDAY NIGHT MEETING

WAS TO MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE OVER WEEKEND BUT TO FILE COMPLETE REPORTS
ON MONDAY IN DEFIANCE CENSORS.

3. THIS COULD TRIGGER MASS EXODUS FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IF GOI
SERIOUSLY PURSUING HARD POLICY ON CENSORSHIP.

4. VOA BUREAU INTENDS TO FILE SUBSTANTIVE AND INFORMATIVE MATERIAL
THIS CHANNEL WHICH MISSION AND BUREAU CONSIDER USEFUL FOR NEW STORIES.

VOA CORRESPONDENT HAS NOT PERSONALLY BEEN CALLED IN BY GOI OR ASKED TO
SIGN ANY PLEDGE.

5. FYI: LA TIMES MAN HAS FILED INTERESTED PARTY MESSAGE TO EDITOR,
IN LIEU REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS, REQUESTING GUIDANCE, AND OTHER
NEWSMEN MAY USE SAME CHANNEL IF NORMAL COMMUNICATIONS REMAIN UN-
AVAILABLE.

6. NONE OF ABOVE SHOULD BE USED AS BASIS ANY NEWS STORY.
GILMORE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENSORSHIP, THE PRESS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE09720
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750249-0447
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750742/aaaablwi.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN PRESS CENSORSHIP OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS
TAGS: PINS, IN
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006